



What is Telemedicine?

Telemedicine is a way of giving services to Medicaid clients who live a significant distance away from the providers they need to see. Telemedicine involves two providers: an “originating provider” and a “distant provider.” The provider where the client is located is the originating provider and the provider in another location is the distant provider. Providers must have special equipment to provide telemedicine services. Telemedicine does not mean visits by telephone or fax.

Who is eligible for services?

All Medicaid clients can receive services through the use of telemedicine, whether they live in rural or urban areas. Only the Medicaid providers that have special telemedicine equipment can serve clients through telemedicine.

How does telemedicine work?

Telemedicine services are provided “live” by audio-video communications between two providers. The distant provider is a consultant to the originating provider. Sometimes the distant provider may be the only provider involved in the visit, such as with mental health sessions. Providers such as doctors, nurse practitioners and mental health providers can provide services if they have the special equipment.

When is telemedicine a good option?

Telemedicine is best used for clients who live in rural areas and are far away from a provider. Telemedicine gives the client access to providers including specialists. Telemedicine is not to take the place of seeing a provider in person when one is available.

What Medicaid services are reimbursed using telemedicine?

A list of approved services is available to providers. The services include office visits for preventive and routine medical care, psychotherapy and obstetrical ultrasounds.

Does telemedicine add new services?

No. Telemedicine allows providers to provide services that are already covered by Colorado Medicaid.

For more information about telemedicine:

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